

C15-2013-0119

Dear City of Austin Planning Commission,

We the undersigned respectfully ask the City of Austin to allow the variance request for the variance to the lake wall requested by the owners of 3600, 3602 and 3604 Rivercrest Drive in Austin, TX 78746.

Our request is based on the following principles:

The City of Austin had been requested to remediate a build-up of materials and debris found at 3602 Rivercrest which had both a foul odor as well as a build-up of trash and other inorganic debris. Upon calling and receiving a visit from the Austin Health Department, the homeowner residing at 3604 was told that it was the "homeowner's problem" even when faced with the fact that the property was controlled by the City of Austin. The homeowner was also told that it was up to the homeowners to fix it.

Upon being told that the responsibility was that of the property owners, the property owner's undertook a study with a PhD in Environmental Fluid Mechanics to understand the root cause of the issue. Upon being presented with the results, it was decided that the recommendation by the expert was to redirect the flow of water to eliminate a "vortex condition" which would not allow normal flow of water downriver.

There was no significant impact to this remediation other than the disappearance of the organic and inorganic materials and a cleanliness which added to the quality of the lake at this location.

I, the undersigned, have not been negatively affected by this reconstruction of the lake wall and have no problem with the variance as it so stands.

Signature:

WAYNE PARISH
Wayne Parish Address 3603 RIVERCREST DR Date: 10/24/13

JAMES F. HEFNER
JHefner Address 3513 RIVERCREST Date: 10/21/13
CLINT SMITH

William Curtis Gattis Address 3605 RIVERCREST Date: 10/21/13
William Curtis Gattis

William Curtis Gattis Address 360 Rivercrest Dr 78746 Date: 10/26/13

BRUCE A. EZZELL
Bruce A. Ezzell Address 3704 Rivercrest Date: 10/26/13

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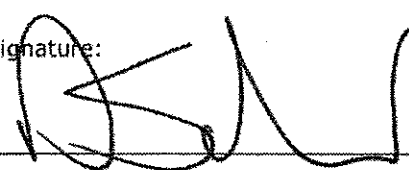
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Signature:


 David Schimish

Address

3600 Rivercrest

Date:

11/12/13

 Jan Schimish

Address

6706 TROLL HAVEN

Date:

11/12/13

Address

Date:

Address

Date:

Address

Date:

Re: 3602 Rivercrest variance proposal.

Remedy for an Environmental and Health Hazard

Overview

Moved in 31 years ago – problem had existed since the 1960s and continued ...

See previous 9 point explanation of events.

City Health Department, when asked for help, said "It's your problem ... you fix it."

On advice of a Hydrologist, barrier across the "cut in" allowed a healthy lake flow.

Built with Ripple Sections City was recommending at the time.

John Williams (Hydrologist) provided letter regarding analysis of issues and recommendation for solution (barrier).

The Hydrologist states "a return of the previous shoreline dimensions will create, without question, the previous situation".

New wall is not as far out toward the lake as the neighbors.

Third party account of the severity of the problem.

Holt Carson (Surveyor) provided a survey and a letter stating that the original plat details property out past original wall.

Pat Wentworth (Arborist) provided a report on the environment and the presence of Heritage Trees within the affected area.

Neighborhood Petition of Approval and Support signed by neighbors within two blocks.

This project was never intended for any concern other than the health and safety of our families.

C15-2013-01

May 9, 2014

City of Austin
Planning Division

To Whom It May Concern:

I have worked with Mr. Hank Coleman on an issue at his property since the spring of 2001. Mr. Coleman reached out to me about an issue with a debris field (EX #1 herein) which consisted of compacted organic materials, human refuse and the stacking or combining of these materials. The debris field extended into the lake to a distance which on rough measurement was twenty to thirty yards from the existing bank.

Mr. Coleman explained that the organic and inorganic buildup of materials could be removed from the area only to return within days, but, on occasion, within hours of being cleaned from the riverbank or bulkhead.

We conducted a series of experiments: I asked Mr. Coleman to introduce a floating device and to monitor the behavior of the device and to record the direction and speed (without using full professional tools) of the floating device and to provide me a rough topological drawing of both the bank and the other encroachments into the water.

To be fully explanatory, this process took over two years due to my travels and being away from the United States for extended periods of time.

After multiple attempts at remedying the situation on an incremental basis, it was obvious that the issue is similar to a hydrology effect referred to a **Coriolis effect** which is especially interesting in this case due to the unusual positioning of this particular location, the shallowness of the water at this location, and the unusual deviation from the natural shoreline which, in my opinion, appears to have been man-made.

After Mrs. Coleman was advised by the City of Austin Health Department that the accumulation of debris was an issue to be solved by the homeowner, I suggested a more complex solution which included changing the actual direction of the water flow by adjusting the angle of the "cut in" which existed starting with the homeowner two properties to the south of the Coleman property.

Obviously, to change the multiple effects of the direct winds (both North and South), the undue wave activity which is caused by the deep hull boats in a compressed width of the actual body of water, the reflexive nature of the natural current, and the vortex effect of the sudden cut in of the bank south of the property, the wall constructed behaved exactly as I advised Mr. Coleman that it would.

The odious buildup of materials disappeared within weeks of the construction of the wooden wall being erected.

Please be advised: a return of the previous shoreline dimensions will create, without question, the previous situation. I have advised Mr. Coleman of this fact and I have made him aware that the debris accumulation will start almost immediately after the changing of the current design.



Clifton Chowning
12900 N. Lakeland Dr.
Austin, Texas 78732
512-266-6677

Re: 3602 & 3604 Rivercrest

City of Austin,

Years ago our group was called upon to attempt to "clean up" the lakeside edge of the property at 3602 and 3604 Rivercrest. We encountered a massive mess of trash and garbage that had been deposited along the area. The material was stagnant and decaying and was so overwhelming that we were unable to keep ahead of the accumulation of the debris. The situation was obviously very unhealthy. The adjustments made to these properties have cleared up the very difficult circumstances that existed.

Sincerely,

Clifton Chowning